

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

DT04 Rec'd PCT/PTO 25 JUN 2004

Please replace all prior versions of the claims with the following claim listing:

**Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) containing a fluid, ~~which~~ said pouch (P) comprises an envelope (E) having an inside face (F), said medical device comprising:

at least perforation means (2C) for perforating the pouch (P); and

securing means for securing the medical device to the pouch (P) so as to explant it;

~~said medical device being characterized in that~~ wherein said perforation means (2C) make it possible to form an orifice in the flexible pouch (P) so as to enable the securing means to pass through, ~~which~~ said securing means ~~are~~ formed by anchor means (12) acting from the inside of the pouch (P) on a portion of said inside face (F) of the envelope to generate bearing engagement sufficient to enable the pouch to be explanted.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the anchor means (12) are capable of being deployed, their deployment being controlled by a control member (6).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that it is provided~~

with claim 1, the medical device further comprising fluid removal means (3, 8) for removing the fluid contained inside the pouch to the outside of the body of the patient.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~claim 2 or claim 3, characterized in that~~ claim 2, wherein the anchor means (12) are formed by a structure forming a hinged truss and comprising at least one anchor arm (12D), said structure having a front termination (20) and a back termination (21), which terminations are caused to move closer together in controlled manner by the control member (6) in order to cause the at least one anchor arm (12D) to be deployed.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~claim 2 or claim 3, characterized in that it comprises~~ claim 2, the medical device further comprising:

a hollow tube (2) having a distal portion (2A) provided with the perforation means (2C) and a proximal portion (2B), said distal portion (2A) and said proximal portion (2B) defining between them an internal volume (3);

a guide wire (4) disposed in said internal volume (3) and having a front end (4A) and a back end (4B); and

an external connector (5) mounted at the proximal portion (2B) via a sleeve (7) having a cavity (7A), and including the control member (6) organized to make it possible for a user to exert at least traction and compression forces on the guide wire (4), said control member (6) being mounted to move relative to the sleeve (7), the cavity (7A) of said sleeve communicating with the outside via one or more tubular end-pieces (8);

said front end (4A) and said back end (4B) being secured respectively to the distal portion (2A) and to the control member (6), the hollow tube (2) including at least one weak segment ~~(8)~~ (18) extending between a front section (9) and a back section (10), over a length sufficient to define with said sections (9, 10) a portion (11) of hollow tube that, when the user exerts traction on the back end (4B) via the control member (6), thereby causing the hollow tube (2) to be compressed axially, tends to undergo buckling causing it to be deformed towards the outside of the internal volume (3) along said at least one weak segment ~~(8)~~ (18) so that said portion (11) forms the anchor means (12) suitable for being deployed ~~(12)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the at least one weak segment(s) ~~(8)~~ segment (18) extend(s) rectilinear extends rectilinearly between the front section (9) and the back section (10).

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~claim 5 or claim 6, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the weak segment(s) ~~(8)~~ extend(s) at least one weak segment (18) extends parallel to the axis of symmetry of the hollow tube (2) between the front section (9) and the back section (10).

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any one of the claims 5 to 7, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the weak segment(s) ~~(8)~~ extend(s) at least one weak segment (18)

extends in the form of an undulating curve or undulating curves, or in the form of zigzags between the front section (9) and the back section (10).

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 8, characterized in that there are~~ claim 5, further comprising at least two weak ~~segment(s) (8)~~ segments (18) which are angularly distributed in uniform manner.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the weak ~~segments (8)~~ (18) are of identical type.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 10, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the ~~weak segment(s) (8) is/are~~ at least one weak segment (18) is constituted by a slit or by slits.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 10, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the ~~weak segment(s) (8) is/are~~ at least one weak segment (18) is constituted by a series of successive perforations forming one or more dashed lines of material suitable for tearing under the effect of the buckling.

13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 12, characterized in that~~ claim

5, wherein the portion (11) of hollow tube (2) is provided with at least one fold substantially at the middle zone (12A) of said portion.

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the perforation means (2C) are deactivatable.

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 14, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the external connector (5) is secured in leaktight manner to the proximal portion (2B), so that the cavity (7A) and the internal volume (3) form a single volume, the guide wire (4) occupying sufficiently little space in said single volume for it to be possible to provide a space for passing a fluid sucked out via tubular end-pieces (8) in the hollow tube (2).

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 15, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the control member (6) is mounted to slide axially inside the cavity (7A) of the sleeve (7) so that the control member (6), when sliding, controls traction / compression of the guide wire (4).

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 15, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the control member (6) is mounted on the sleeve (7) via a pivot coupling

whose axis is perpendicular to the axis of the hollow tube (2), so that the control member (6), when pivoting, controls the traction /compression of the guide wire (4).

18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 15, characterized in that claim~~ 5, wherein the control member (6) is mounted in the cavity (7A) in the sleeve (7) via a helical translation coupling whose axis is parallel to the axis of the hollow tube (2), so that control member (6), when moving, controls the traction / compression of the guide wire (4).

19. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 18, characterized in that claim~~ 5, wherein, when the guide wire (4) is subjected to a compression force induced by action from the user on the control member (6), a portion of the guide wire (4) is capable of coming out of the internal volume (3) so as to be deployed to form a snare loop (4C), whose perimeter is adjustable by the user acting on the control member (6).

20. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The medical device (1) for explanting a flexible pouch (P) according to ~~any preceding claim, characterized in that claim 1,~~ wherein the flexible pouch is an intra-gastric balloon designed to be used in treating obesity.